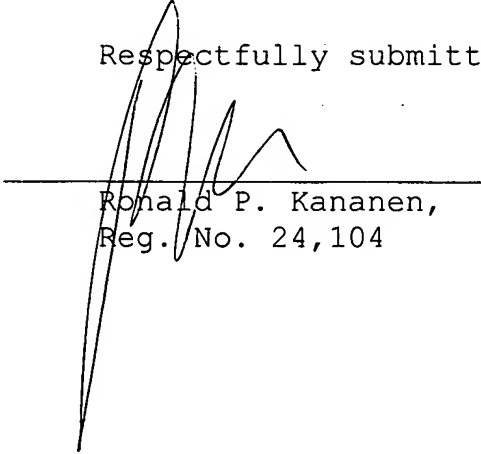


REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is requested prior to the initial examination of the above-identified patent application to address minor matters of form and syntax. No new matter has been added. If the Examiner has any suggestions for placing this application in even better form, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned and the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: January , 2003



Ronald P. Kananen,  
Reg. No. 24,104

RADER, FISHMAN & GRAUER, PLLC  
THE LION BUILDING  
1233 20TH STREET, N.W., SUITE 501  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036  
TEL: (202) 955-3750  
FAX: (202) 955-3751  
CUSTOMER No. 23353